1: Grigson G-5 (1927-1934) 1949
AW32 Gond AW32
Hill Maria
Bison Horn Maria

133 Madras if it had been reasonably managed. The few 'Dorla' villages are the most miserable in Bastar.

The third sub-division is the Kolab-Sabari valley from the southern slopes of the hills at the edge of the 2,000 feet plateau and the Dantewara valley plateau to the border of the Bhadrachalam taluq of Madras on the south. The northern portion of this, the Sukma zamindari, is a punchbowl ringed by the high edges of the Jagdalpur and Dantewara plateaux from Tulsidongri in the north-east counter-clockwise to a point in the south-west of the zamindari where the foot-hills of the Gogonda-Tikanpalli hills approach the Kolab-Sabari near Chikpalli; the hills are continued across the river and the Bastar border still counter-clockwise towards Malkangiri, and thence back to Tulsidongri. There are two small detached portions of Jagdalpur tahsil in the north of the zamindari, around Kukanar and the lower waters of the Thakawara and Kumakoleng rivers respectively. South of Sukma zamindari the valley opens out again to form the main block of Konta tahsil, including the former Bhiji zamindari, the level of which falls nearly to 250 feet above the sea by Konta at its south-east corner; here the Bastar portion of the valley is very narrow, as nearly all the south of Konta tahsil is occupied by the ranges of the Golapalli mountains which at one point reach a height of more than 2,800 feet.

132 In contrast with north Bastar, with its evergreen moist forests, cool climate, abundant water-supply and often thick population,
133 south Sukma, almost all Konta, the Pamer-Kotapalli zamindari
137 and much of south Bijapur are hot dry regions of deciduous forests, deficient water and sparse population. The rivers are short stony torrents rushing down in the monsoon to the adjacent Godavari, Talper or Kolab-Sabari, and drying up often before January. Teak is the characteristic timber tree.

635 There will be found in Appendix I a statement of the areas and populations of the six tahsils and four zamindaris into which modern
162 Bastar is divided. Each of these administrative units is called after the name of its headquarters; except Jagdalpur with a (1931) population of 10,128, the other headquarters are only villages, and not always large villages; in 1931, of the 2,442 villages in Bastar only five had populations between 2,000 and 2,500, and forty-two populations between 1,000 and 2,000.

634 Frequent mention was made in this chapter of the smaller '*pargana*' unit. The first use that I can find of this word is in Appendix IX of Glasfurd's 1862 report, in which, of the forty-three non-zamindari sub-divisions of Bastar, seventeen are called *parganas* and twenty-six *garhs*. In Elliot's 1855 report the names are given of forty-eight *garhs* and nine taluqs into which the non-zamindari

1: Grigson G-5 (1927-1934) 1949
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part of the State was said once to have been sub-divided, and of the twenty-seven *garhs* and nine taluqs remaining after some had passed by conquest or other arrangement to Jeypore, Kanker, Bindra-Nawagarh and Nagpur or as *mokasa* grants to Bastar zamindars. The two lists do not correspond, though it seems that what Elliot called taluqs and independent village groups, Glasfurd called *parganas*. There is nothing to show what distinguished a *pargana* or taluq from a *garh*. Reference may again be made to Wills's

FIGURE 1

ANTAGARH TAHSIL, DIVIDED INTO *PARGANAS*

Scale roughly 17 miles = 1 inch. The small patch marked C.D is a detached portion of CHHOTA DONGAR *pargana*. The boundary crossing the *pargana* divides the Hill Maria and Jhoria villages of the *pargana*.

monograph on *The Territorial System of the Rajput Kingdoms of Medieval Chhattisgarh*, in which he summarizes the system of the division of kingdoms into conventional numbers of *garhs* or *chaurasis*, themselves sub-divided into taluqs or *barhons* each containing twelve villages, with the heads of the *garhs* and taluqs working with the advice of *panchayats* or committees of village headmen, as 'a system of feudalism superimposed on an earlier tribal organization', the 'feudal element' being largely the conventionalization

1: Grigson G-5 (1927-1934) 1949
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●634 of the size of the divisions and the formal linking of them together in subordination to the head of the State and of the heads of the intermediate divisions, and its authority being held in constant check by the democratic tendencies of the tribe. The word *pargana* is familiar in the west of the Central Provinces and in Berar as a unit of the Mussalman organization of the Deccan, and as more and more Indian officials were lent to Bastar from the Central Provinces it probably displaced gradually the less familiar terms *garh* and taluq. I deal below with the tribal organization of the [614] Hill Marias. Their clan-units were and are smaller than the conventional *garh* and often than the *barhon* or taluq; yet in the Abujhmar hills tract of the Antagarh tahsil these clan-units of land are now designated *parganas*. The modern list of *parganas* is considerably larger than those of Elliot and Glasfurd, who described all the Abujhmar country as one taluq or *pargana* named Màrian; there are now nine Abujhmar *parganas* in Antagarh tahsil alone, besides others of obvious tribal origin below the hills, and there are twenty-nine *parganas* in all in Antagarh tahsil. These are shown in the map on page 33. It was pointed out in the 1911 Central Provinces Census Report, Part I, p. 239, that the Hill Marias of the Ahiri zamindari are similarly divided into (probably clan) units called *pattis*. The *parganas* of modern Bastar include some obvious former *garhs*, some obvious *barhons* (e.g. Baragaon *pargana* in Antagarh), and some obvious old tribal clan-units, while some have been created in my time; and the word *pargana* is now used of any sub-division of a tahsil or zamindari in which villages are grouped under a group headman or '*pargana majhi*'.